



BLUE MOUNDS STATE PARK MASTER PLAN AMENDMENT Newsletter

March, 2015

Issue #1

In December 2014, the Natural Resources Board gave the go-ahead to start an amendment review of the master plan for Blue Mound State Park. The possible plan amendment will only be for recreational trails, their uses and locations.

Get the latest news on the master planning efforts by subscribing to planning updates sent directly to your email. It's easy, simply go to: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/MasterPlanning/BlueMound/> and subscribe.

Phase I of the planning process is underway. In January and February 2015, the Department began its Phase I portion of the Blue Mound master plan amendment, which is centered on existing conditions and the collection of critical land use data, ecological inventories, soundscape analysis and digital maps. The Department will review and analyze the data before it can begin the public engagement and planning portions of the process. Some examples of the data being collected includes: accurate digital information for maps, trail inventories, topography, vegetation, plants, certain groups of animals, items of historical significance, trail visitor counts, sound tests, soils and geology.

And we are pleased to announce that the Department has assembled a **Planning Team** for this master plan amendment process that includes a national award winning recreation and park planner, a national and regionally recognized landscape architect with extensive trail design experience, and senior ecological and vegetation management staff, as well as professional civic engagement specialists. The planning team is excited about the planning efforts ahead and looks forward to meeting interested citizens and stakeholders at future listening sessions!

What's next?

A number of data collection tasks are either underway or are scheduled to be started over the next few months. As part of the initial work, an updated base map of the park property showing accurate existing location and condition of trails, activity patterns, and resource data will be produced to support the planning effort. Once these tasks have been completed, a public open house and informational meeting will be scheduled to present the existing conditions inventory and analysis. The intent of this open house is to collect public feedback on user impressions of the existing trail network and the publics' vision for a sustainable future trail network. The public input and information gathered at the initial open house, stakeholder conversations, and follow-up public meetings, along with other available resources, will be used to craft a comprehensive trail network design and updated master plan document.

Thank you for your continued interest in this planning effort!

Public inquiries about the planning process can be directed to: paul.zajackowski@wisconsin.gov